

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-26. (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) A modular structure (10, 20) for containing articles, fluids or persons, said structure comprising a plurality of elements (1, 13, 15) of plastic or composite material, coupled together along their end edges (26), mechanical ~~fixing means~~ fasteners (23) and fluid ~~seal means~~ seals (43) being provided along those edges (26), the ~~coupled plurality of~~ elements (1, 13, 15) comprising at least one element (1) having a curved surface of single curvature, the fluid ~~seal means~~ seals (43) being positioned ~~on the inside~~ interiorly of the modular structure (10, 20) in receiving seats (40) provided within an inner wall of said structure, ~~characterised in that the fluid seal means~~ (43) are said seals (43) being deformable bodies positioned ~~within the respective seats provided in the inner wall of the modular structure defining the interior compartment~~ (28) ~~of this latter~~ wherein seals between two coupled elements (1, 13, 15) are associated with connectors (46) positioned in regions (51) in which several coupled elements converge, and wherein said

connectors (46) are cross-shaped bodies with arms (47) at least partly hollow (at 48) to receive ends (45) of the fluid seals.

28. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in claim 27, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the receiving seats (40) for the fluid ~~seal means~~ seals (43) are defined in correspondence with ~~the~~ fixing regions between the coupled elements (1, 13, 15).

29-30. (cancelled)

31. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in ~~claim 30~~ claim 27, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said arms (47) have a flat side (50).

32. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in ~~claim 30~~ claim 27, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hollow arms communicate with a hole (460) into which a sealing and securing element can be inserted and which by penetrating into the cavities (48) of said arms (47) secures the ends (45) of the ~~seal means for~~ seals within the arms (47).

33. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in claim 27, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the receiving seats (40) for the fluid ~~seal means~~ seals (43) are defined by end recesses (97) in the coupled elements (1, 13, 15).

34. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in claim 27, ~~characterised in that~~ comprising a plurality of elements (1) having a curved surface of single curvature.

35. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in claim 34, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein those elements (1) having a curved surface are coupled together in succession ~~(Figure 9)~~ in correspondence with ~~their~~ end free edges (26) thereof, said structure being open.

36. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in claim 34, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein those elements (1) having a curved surface are coupled together in such a manner as to define a tubular structure ~~(Figure 4)~~.

37. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in claim 27, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the elements to be coupled together comprise flat elements (13) and elements (15) comprising two connected-together adjacent curved surfaces with different centres of curvature, said elements with two curved surfaces (13) defining corner elements of the modular structure.

38. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in claim 37, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein at least one of the flat

elements (13) presents an aperture able to be intercepted by a closure element (65).

39. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in claim 27, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each coupled element (1, 13, 15) is covered by a panel (1A, 13A, 15A) positioned ~~on the outside~~ exteriorly of the modular structure, said outer panel having a shape identical to that of ~~the~~ a corresponding coupled element (1, 13, 15).

40. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in claim 39, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein insulation elements (60) are present between the coupled elements (1, 13, 15) and ~~the~~ corresponding outer panels (1A, 13A, 15A).

41. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in claim 27, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the coupled elements (1, 13, 15) comprise flanges (25) projecting from their end free edges (26), the flanges (25) of two ~~of these~~ adjacent elements being coupled to each other and being fixed together by the mechanical ~~fixing means~~ fasteners (23).

42. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in claim 41, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the flanges (25) are

external to ~~the interior compartment~~ (28) of the modular structure.

43. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in claim 41, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each flange (25) comprises distributed recesses (55).

44. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in claim 41, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~fixing means~~ fasteners are U-pieces (24) positioned along the projecting flanges (25) of the coupled elements (1, 13, 15), said U-pieces being fixed by mechanical ~~fixing members~~ fastening elements (34) passing through holes (35) provided in said flanges (25) and said U-pieces (24).

45. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in claim 27, ~~characterised by being~~ wherein said structure is of a size and shape sufficient to be a dwelling unit.

46. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The structure as claimed in claim 27, ~~characterised by being~~ wherein said structure is of a size and shape sufficient to be a conduit for fluids, articles in movement or persons.